

New Records and Accounts

First Records for the Aphid *Greenidea ficicola* Takahashi (Homoptera: Aphididae) in Hawaii

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Abstract. First observations of the aphid *Greenidea ficicola* are recorded from Hawaii, which was found infesting Chinese banyan, *Ficus microcarpa*, at Kahaluu, Oahu, on January 6, 2011. This is the second species of the Asian genus *Greenidea* to become established in Hawaii.

Key words: *Greenidea ficicola*, new state record, Hawaii

A new aphid to the state of Hawaii, *Greenidea ficicola* Takahashi, was collected on Chinese banyan (*Ficus microcarpa*) at Kahaluu, Oahu on January 6th and 11th, 2011. At this time, aphids infesting *F. microcarpa* were uncommon in Hawaii, prompting a closer examination of these specimens. Slide-mounted adult aphids were submitted to the Systematic Entomology Laboratory, Agricultural Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and identified on July 6, 2011 as *Greenidea ficicola* Takahashi by Research Entomologists David Adamski and Gary Miller.

A small population of aphids was found infesting the soft, non-woody stems of new shoot growth that was sprouting from the base of a large banyan tree. There was no apparent plant damage. Large numbers of the white-footed ant, *Technomyrmex albipes* Forel, were seen tending to the aphids. No evidence of aphid predation or parasitism was found.

G. ficicola is an Asian species reported from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, eastern Russia, China, Taiwan, Japan, Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Australia, and Africa (Burundi) (Blackman and Eastop 2000). The first detection of *G.*

ficicola in the United States was in Florida in 2002. Host plants are restricted to *Ficus* spp. throughout most of its range, although in India it has been collected from guava, *Psidium guajava* (Halbert 2004).

In Hawaii, a related species, *G. psidii* van Der Goot (= *G. formosana* Maki), was first recorded in 1993 infesting leaves of a guava tree at the University of Hawaii at Manoa campus (Beardsley 1995). While its geographic distribution is nearly similar to that of *G. ficicola* (Blackman and Eastop 2000), *G. psidii* has a wider host range, which includes Myrtaceae, Moraceae (*Ficus* spp.), Loranthaceae, Lythraceae, and Clusiaceae (Halbert 2004).

Acknowledgments

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Literature Cited

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Live *Greenidea ficicola* apterous adult (above); alate (below).

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